

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-23, and 46-66 are pending in the application, claims 46-66 being newly added herein. Claims 2-5 and 24-45 were previously cancelled. Claims 1 and 46 are the only independent claims.

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 6-23, 47 and 56-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims purportedly contain subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skill in the art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

According to the Examiner, the limitation “including the whole face from the forehead to the neck” does not appear to have support in the original disclosure. Instead, the original disclosure refers to a “complete doll head below a latitudinal plane intersecting the head at a position below the eyes and below a crown of the head.”

Claims 1, 6-23, and 46-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner specifically maintains that the relationship between the first mold cavity and the second mold cavity is unclear and suggests that the language of claims 1 and 46 be amended to include, from the disclosure as original filed, the language “complete doll head below a latitudinal plane intersecting the head at a position below the eyes and below a crown of the head.”

In response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, applicant amends claims 1 and 46 herein to include the language suggested by the

Examiner, namely, a “complete doll head below a latitudinal plane intersecting the head at a position below the eyes and below a crown of the head.”

Claims Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 6-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,115,494 to Valyi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,143,453 to Taluba and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,403,603 to Fekete et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,733,716 to Belcher, and 2,702,411 to Winstead.

In response to the rejection of claims 1 and 6-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), claims 1 and 46 have been amended to explicitly state that the hollow doll head has facial features determined by injection molding and a crown determined by blow molding and to further state that the facial features of the doll head formed during the injection molding process remain unchanged by the blow molding process.

This language has been added to the specification to provide explicit antecedent support in the specification for the language in the claims. This language does not constitute new matter inasmuch as the new language is merely an alternative description of the end result of applicant's process as described in the original specification with reference to the drawings.

Applicant's invention as set forth in claims 1 and 46 as amended herein contemplates that the final features of the doll head are formed in part by injection molding and in part by blow molding. More particularly, the fine features of the doll's face are formed by injection molding, whereas the top or crown of the head is formed by blow molding. Thus, the rear section of the first mold is formed on an interior cavity-defining surface with facial details of the doll head. The facial details are formed during

an injection molding process. The top or crown of the doll head is subsequently formed by blow molding against the exterior mold front section of the second mold.

The present invention makes use of injection molding pressure to mold the facial details of the head within the first mold (#5 in the drawings) and use blow molding to expand and thin up the top part where the surface is mainly smooth and has no detailed structure. The present invention combines the advantage of both injection molding for the detailed facial features and blow molding for the thin crown of the doll head.

As pointed out in a previous Amendment, the references relied on by the Examiner either teach blow molding an article wherein the features of the finished molded part are determined solely by the blow molding process (Valyi, Belcher, Taluba) or injection molding an article wherein the features of the finished molded part are determined solely by the injection molding process (Fekete). Nothing in the references suggests that a molded product such as a doll head could have some final features (specifically including the facial features) determined by injection and other features of the molded product (specifically the crown of the doll head) determined by blow molding.

The following observations are taken verbatim from applicant's previous Amendment.

Valyi, the primary reference relied on by the Examiner in rejecting the claims, discloses a two stage molding process wherein a parison (16) is formed by injection molding during the first stage and is blow molded during a second stage to assume a final form. The final shape of the article formed by the method of Valyi is completely

determined by the interior of the blow mold cavity used during the second stage of the process.

In the method of Valyi, the parison (16) is formed on a platen (20) during the injection molding stage and rests on the platen during transformation of the parison into the blow-molded object during the second stage of the process. Valyi contemplates that the entire shape of the thermoplastic article (with the possible exception of a neck held by a neck mold (21) is determined during the blow molding process by the shape of the mold cavity, the pressure exerted, and the characteristics of the thermoplastic material.

Nothing in the secondary references suggests that the final form of a doll head could be determined in part by injection molding and in part by blow molding.

The method of Belcher involves making a hollow blow molded thermoplastic article having an integral handle. An unblown preform of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is inserted into a blow mold and thereafter stretched by a stretch rod. Blow gas is then injected into the interior of the preform when the blow mold is closed and the preform is at a stretch temperature. After the preform is blown into the shape of the bottle in the mold, blow gas is discharged from the stretch rod onto an interior wall surface where the handle is to be formed. Movable mold segments are then advanced within the blow mold from a first retracted position to a second position thereby compressing an interior wall surface of the article into contact with a facing interior wall surface of the bottle to bond the surfaces at an elevated temperature and form an integral handle extending from the exterior wall of the blow molded article.

It is clearly that Belcher's patent is specifically for making a stretch/blow molded article (bottle) with an integral projection such as a handle. Belcher's method modifies a

traditional blow molding process to include a movable segment in the mold to form the handle. Nothing in Belcher suggests that the final form of a doll head could be determined in part by injection molding and in part by blow molding.

Taluba discloses a manufacturing method wherein a hollow doll head is formed of elastomer material and is blow molded to include a downwardly extended annular lip having a semicircular groove at the front of the neck. The lip is constructed to fold inwardly and to engage a bead or flange on the neck portion of the body, thereby securing the head to the body.

Taluba's patent is clearly directed to blow molding a doll head in an elastomer material with a traditional blow molding technique to provide a downwardly extended annular lip having a semicircular groove at the front of the neck. The blow mold method is similar to the one described in Belcher's patent in which a parison and a split blow mold is used, with split line along the side of the head. Nothing in Belcher suggests that the final form of a doll head could be determined in part by injection molding and in part by blow molding.

Fekete et al. provide a method for making a hollow doll head by injection molding a thermoplastic elastomer around a removable mold core. The major dimension of the mold core is larger than the opening in the doll's head through which the core is to be removed after the injection molding is complete. For large mold cores and relatively small openings, Fekete et al. provide a multiple piece core section which is designed to be removed piece by piece through the opening in the doll's head and then reassembled for reuse.

Fekete et al. teach an injection molding method for forming a doll's head with finished detail about the entirety thereof. Nothing in the Fekete reference suggests that the final form of a doll head could be determined in part by injection molding and in part by blow molding.

The claim amendments, if any, made herein are made without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue additional subject matter in a separate continuation or divisional application.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1 and 46, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are deemed to be in condition for allowance. An early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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